

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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## JOBS SLASHED!

It is now quite obvious that the local Area Health Authority is treating Hackney like a terminal patient, as indeed it has become due to the incredible neglect and idiot planning reshuffles of the last few years.

The latest chunk being incised out of the local hospital body is being made by that well-known surgeon with the big scalpel: the Government Cuts in Public Spending.

- 400 full time jobs are to be cut in the next six months. That's 1 in 17 of the present staff. There will be 20 doctors, 140 nurses and 240 other workers on the dole in this area. Many of these workers were especially invited to this area in order to help out the NHS.
- The number of Accident and Emergency Units open in the evenings and at weekends will be reduced. Probably St Leonard's will close (that's the one they've just opened!)
- Overtime will be reduced or cut completely. They admit that this will lead to a deterioration in services. Overtime is essential to keep the service at its present level.
- E Block in Hackney will be closed immediately. Obstetric services will be transferred to the Mother's. This is a reprieve for the Mother's, which was to have been closed -- instead they will increase the number of patients by 50% and turn it into a "baby factory".
- Absent doctors and surgeons will no longer always be replaced by a locum. So when consultants are away, new patients and serious surgery will just stop.
- Expensive techniques and methods will be "scrutinised". This means that Barts Cancer Unit, St Leonards kidney machines and Intensive Care Units all over the Borough will probably be axed.

There have been angry reactions to these cuts from health workers in Hackney. For details of their protest, see pages 2 and 3 inside.

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# CUTS WILL BE THE DEATH OF HACKNEY

Hackney has long been known to be one of the unhealthiest areas of Britain to live in. If the massive new cuts are implemented (these are outlined on the front page) then it will mean the effective death of the N.H.S. in this area.

## GOVT WARNING

These drastic cuts are being implemented due to a Government circular warning health authorities throughout the country not to exceed their (inadequate) cash limit which was imposed last year on many services. Each area Health Authority has been ordered to submit accounts that comply with this limit, *but despite considerable reductions already Hackney overspent by £700,000.* And that is the reason for the cuts in an area that could well do without them.

## CUTS DEMO

Angry about these latest, and most fearsome cuts, the local branches of the trades unions concerned (A.S.T.M.S., N.A.L.G.O., C.O.H.S.E., N.U.P.E., & G.M.W.U.) are organising a one day strike for Thursday 23rd September, with a public meeting outside the Met. in Kingsland Road. Marchers are being organised from each hospital in the City & Hackney Health District to arrive outside the Met. at 12.30 pm. By this action the unions wish to show the people of Hackney

that they are concerned as much as the N.H.S. users about the cuts in the Health Service in Hackney. You must come too!

We are demanding that:

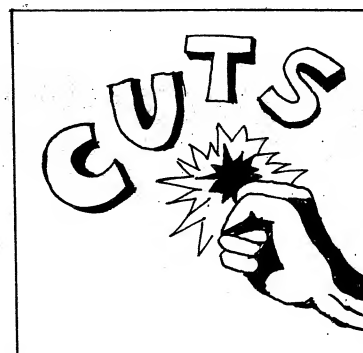
- 1) Hackney gets new hospitals.
- 2) Before these are built, the present service must be maintained, and improved.

The present cuts must be withdrawn.

On Wednesday 13 October a meeting has been called at Hackney Town Hall by Hackney Trades Council. "Stop these Health Cuts." Speakers from the Community Health Council have been invited. 7.30pm.

The AHA meet on Thursday 21 October at 2pm in Addison House, Chart Street, N.1. Join the picket outside!

"East London Health Worker" have set up an action line and information desk on 249 1364 and 981 4526. Phone them for latest developments.



## A FARE FIGHT BACK

The FARE FIGHT Campaign, which has been organising resistance against this summer's fare increases on the buses and the Underground, still fights on.

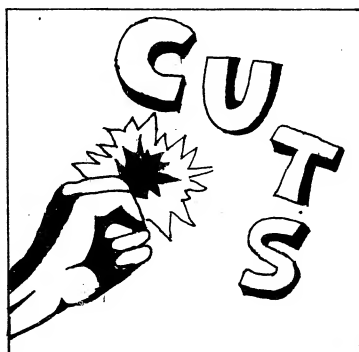
Details of how to use the "Deferred Payment Slips" which are enclosed in this copy of HPP are on the sheet. The whole campaign is perfectly legal and thousands of passengers are using these slips daily to show London Transport that the people who use their transport system - and the people who operate it - will not sit back and watch their irrevocable dismantling of their service.

FARE FIGHT are now making plans to move the Campaign onto the buses. Readers of HPP will recall the article in the July issue which spotlighted the sorry state that the bus system has got itself into. The people of Hackney, so poorly served for so long by London Transport, will, we hope, welcome the opportunity to protest against the continual round of fare increases and diminished services. Details will follow in the next issue of HPP.

FARE FIGHT believes that the choice is between the temporary disruption of the LT bureaucracy by the use of deferred payment and the total run down of public transport by LT's suicidal policies.

Here is the opportunity to take direct and positive action against the Cuts. A fare rise is the one cut we can collectively avoid.





# A NURSERY TALE

## WHY NO CUTS IN UNEMPLOYMENT?

The latest official statistics say that there are nearly 5,000 people out of work in Hackney. In reality the figure is much higher, as many unemployed women do not register at the Employment Exchange. Also the full impact of the young school-leavers recently thrown onto the dole queues has yet to be registered in the unemployment figures. Hackney Trades Council, through its Unemployment Sub-Committee has been campaigning against the borough's rising unemployment for the last year.

The Trades Council calls for a reversal of Government policies which are directly responsible for throwing 1½ million people on the dole. The Government and the T.U.C. have given in to the demands of big business that its profitability rates be increased, and have collaborated in the attack on workers' wages and living standards known as the "Social Contract". This attack on workers' pay inevitably means a reduction in purchasing power which sets up a vicious circle of fewer goods being purchased, leading to fewer goods being produced, which in turn leads to further unemployment. The Trades Council calls for a return to free collective bargaining as being essential in any attempt to reverse unemployment.



At the end of the last war there were 13 day nurseries open in Hackney. One of these was Clifton Lodge. It was closed as a day nursery in the mid-fifties. For the last four years the council has left it empty. So while thousands of mothers in Hackney search for decent day care for their children, a building that used to be a day nursery has been left to be vandalised.

Hackney Nursery Campaign are asking Hackney Council to re-open it as a day nursery. Clifton Lodge is in the Dalston ward where nearly 1 in every 4 families (24%) is a single parent family. There is no denying the urgent need for day nursery facilities in Dalston or in the rest of Hackney.

As a first step, Hackney Nursery Campaign are asking the Council to re-open Clifton Lodge as a day nursery. They will be lobbying the Council at 6.30pm on Sept 29th, before the Council meeting, and invite community associations, tenants associations and trade union branches to join them in the lobby. The lobby will be supported by Hackney Under Fives.

Holly Street Estate Community Association's last joint meeting discussed the use of nursery places in the area. This was on Sept 22nd. HPP hopes to report the result in our next issue.

There are 18,000 children under five in Hackney. An estimated 5,600 of these are in either single parent families or families where both parents go out to work. So the existing 471 borough and voluntary day nursery places fall far short of the number needed. Hackney needs thousands of new day nursery places.

The cuts in public expenditure are playing an increasing part in causing unemployment. The largest number of jobless workers in any one trade in Hackney is in the building and construction industry, yet despite this Hackney's desperately needed housing programme has been cut back. The Area Health Authority's decision taken on September 9th, to axe 400 jobs in Hackney's hospitals pushes up the number of unemployed whilst at the same time undermines even further an already inadequate service.

The Unemployment Sub-Committee is campaigning for an immediate crash programme of public works for Hackney, to provide not only much needed services but also employment. The Sub-Committee is especially concerned about the plight of young school leavers and is campaigning at the Employment Exchanges with leaflets directed specially at this section of the unemployed; and the Trades Council is holding a conference on unemployment in December. The Sub-Committee, as an immediate priority, will be joining the battle to save the 400 jobs now under the axe in Hackney's Health Service.

7 October: Public Meeting for the unemployed. Lunchtime: Pembury Tavern, (junction of Amhurst Road & Dalston Lane, E.8).

# WORKERS SACKED FOR STRIKING

## PRA Director Accuses Workers of "Trade Union Belligerence"

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association is an organisation based in Hackney which exists to help ex-mental patients find their feet in society after release from hospital. It runs 5 day centres and 4 associated "industrial education units" in north east London, and has other individual workers involved in other aspects of after-care.

The organisation is directed by Mr. John Wilder who is responsible to a board of trustees and with whom the dismissed workers are in dispute.

For some years the workers for the charity have felt that its Director and the trustees have not involved them sufficiently in the policy-making decisions and have not clarified certain elementary conditions of their employment. Among the employees grievances are:-

1) There are no regular staff meetings- which are especially important since most of the staff work individually running the centres, etc.

2) There is no salary structure, which has resulted in people with far less experience being paid more than longer-term workers for the same type of work.

3) They have never received written contracts of employment as required by law.

4) No consultations have ever been carried out with the day centre staff over the use of money officially allocated by local authorities to the centres.

5) There is no procedure for resolving grievances.

### RELATIONS DETERIORATE

In January this year the majority of workers requested a meeting with the trustees which proved fruitless, due to constant interruptions from Mr Wilder. At the request of the trustees the workers then submitted a number of written proposals for resolving their grievances. These were totally ignored. Meanwhile, relations between Mr Wilder and his staff deteriorated, with Wilder cancelling his usual monthly meetings with staff. This only increased the feeling that Wilder's attitude was dictatorial, and in May the majority of the workers joined NUPE and subsequently the Union asked PRA to negotiate rights on their behalf. The trustees refused this as "appropriate".

As a result of this attitude of indifference, a union-backed one-day token strike for the 12th of August was called, and people attending the day-centres were informed. Where necessary, alternative arrangements

were made to care for the attenders many of whom expressed their support for the staff. On the night before the strike the workers, including one of 17 years standing, were informed by separate telegrams that they would be sacked for breach of their non-existent contracts if they struck.

This threat was carried out on the day after the strike and attempts were made by Mr Wilder to close the day-centres indefinitely.

The attenders were informed by Mr Wilder that the centres were closed, but in fact many, having nowhere else to go, turned up in distress at Mr Wilder's letter to find that the centres were in fact being kept open by the now-unpaid staff.

Since then the staff, whilst fighting for re-instatement, have continued to care for their "clients", using alternative premises where necessitated by Wilder's padlocking of the day centres. This has been made possible by the widespread support, including money, that the workers have received from Trades Unions, Trade Councils and individuals throughout north and east London.

The problems of running such a service are enormous, particularly in the current climate of economic cuts, without their being compounded by an authoritarian and unreasonable management.



JOHN WILDER  
DIRECTOR OF PRA

## MANAGEMENT BELLIGERENCE

During an interview with HPP John Wilder made a number of statements which have since been disputed by the sacked workers. Below we reproduce some of the points made by Mr. Wilder and the replies from the Staff.

Mr. Wilder said that there were 16 full-time paid workers before the strike, but the workers say there were only fourteen. There are now about 20 workers and it is known that Mr. Wilder began interviewing for jobs during the dispute but before the strike. It would therefore appear that he used the strike as a convenient excuse to remove workers who were questioning his directorship, since the workers had been led to believe that he was looking for only a few new workers to make up staff shortages. There are now however, according to Mr. Wilder's figures, 12 new workers.

Mr. Wilder says the workers have been sacked for breach of contract, i.e. going on strike. He claims to have a signed letter of acceptance of a contract from each of the workers; this is disputed by the workers who say that at least some of them have never signed any letter of acceptance (let alone an actual contract). A letter of acceptance would in any case not be legally binding. As the management's original objections to the workers joining NUPE (apart from the fact that NUPE is apparently "unsuitable") were based on the fact that NUPE demanded sole negotiating rights, and as this has since been withdrawn by NUPE, we asked Mr. Wilder whether the management would now find NUPE acceptable. Having first said that it was not up to him to decide, Mr. Wilder then went on to say that there was no possibility of negotiations whilst the workers continued to "constantly make threats". The nature of these threats remained unspecified.



HPP was told by one of the sacked workers that they would like to see the service provided by PRA improved. "PRA is at the moment running day-centres as isolated units dictated to from above by people out of touch with the problems."

We would like to see the organisation as much more part of the community, with its policy dictated by the needs of that community as expressed by the users of the centres and their families.

#### CO-OPERATION NEEDED

"We would like the centres to be run as self-help units, providing advice and occasional support, as well as long-term after-care. This could only be achieved if PRA were organised on a more co-operative basis."

"Joining a trade union was intended not just to improve things for the workers so that they could in turn provide a better service, but also to help the day-centre attenders get a better deal."

"A lot of the time in the centres is spent doing out-work for local

firms, and the attenders are exploited like all out-workers. They assemble and pack toy windmills for 40p per gross, they pack pens for 16p per gross, or unpick the tacking from a coat for 2p per coat.

"We intend to seek the Union's support with problems such as these. By refusing to recognise NUPE the management is denying a source of support to the very people it claims to be trying to help."

Organisations, like PRA, which provide a vital service to communities like Hackney frequently work under great stress due to the reluctance of Government to provide the finance and support needed.

In addition, some, like PRA are the victims of the type of management irresponsibility which is common throughout our society. The fight by the PRA workers is for basic Trade Union rights and deserves the widest support.

All support should be directed to the PRA workers c/o Dame Colet House, Ben Johnson Rd, E.7. (Tel: 790-6721); in particular financial help is needed to enable the workers to continue running the day-centres.

## JOHN DAWSON - the I.L.E.A. reply

In our last issue we published an article ("Bad deal for backward kids") about Educationally subnormal schools, with special reference to the new John Dawson school in Hoxton.

#### INACCURACIES

In response to this, we received a letter from Mr. W.K. Brennan (Assistant Special Education Officer, I.L.E.A.), in which he said our article contained "serious inaccuracies". We haven't room to publish the correspondence with him in full, so we will summarise the main arguments dealt with.

We said that the I.L.E.A. originally intended John Dawson to cater for 200 pupils, and that at the moment there are about half that number attending the school. Mr. Brennan explained that the school was built before the Department of Education circular on staffing standards. The improved teacher/pupil ratio it recommended means that John Dawson will now eventually provide for only 154.

We stated in the article that the fourteen full-time staff will have to be reduced to 8 over the next few months. In his letter Mr. Brennan denied this. We pointed out though that a letter had been sent to the school stating that eight teachers were to be made supernumerary by September. Infact because of the unrest this letter caused, Mr. Brennan attended a meeting in the school at which he guaranteed the teachers their jobs at least until next September. This took place after we went to print.



#### POOR FACILITIES

In the article we pointed to the lack of good sports facilities for older boys. Mr. Brennan replied that the ILEA is not a

Another of the workers grievances is that a full breakdown of accounts is not made available to them. When asked about this Mr. Wilder stated that the accounts were public, but the workers were demanding a breakdown for each Centre, which the accounts do not show. Furthermore, the deficit of £17,500, about which Mr. Wilder has been so anxious to inform the press, according to the workers does not appear in the accounts, and in the past the deficit has been paid by local authority grants. The question of salary is also disputed as Mr. Wilder says that it is impossible to have a fixed salary structure because of the nature of the organisation, i.e. a charity. However, other charities manage to offer their workers a fixed salary structure, and the criteria for salaries that Mr. Wilder says are used, length of time worked for P.R.A. and amount of responsibility, are denied by the workers themselves.

Mr. Wilder's description of the events leading up to the strike differ in many ways from that of the workers. Mr. Wilder said that the management were at first "very pleased" that some people had joined NUPE, and that this had been stated in writing. This is totally contradicted by a Press Release produced by Mr. Wilder a few days after the strike, headed "Trade Union Belligerence" (sic). In it he talks about NUPE "aiming to undermine" voluntary organisations and describes the union as being "especially militant". Again, without giving details, he talks about "threats" made members of NUPE. When asked whether the management had attempted to hold discussions with the workers, presumably after management had stopped being "very pleased", Mr. Wilder said management had been prepared to go to ACAS 2 days before the strike, and that therefore the strike had "no justification". Further to this, he said the workers had actually refused discussions before the strike when management had offered them. All this is denied by the workers.

John Wilder is "not convinced about the motives" of the workers who have been dismissed but have carried on looking after their clients without pay. He said that the strikers appear to be "trying to affect the other areas of P.R.A.'s work" by "disrupting" the Day Centres, which are only a "small part of the work of P.R.A." The Day Centres are however the main part of P.R.A. The contradictory attitudes towards NUPE and the workers expressed by Mr. Wilder in the interview were shown in their true light at the end, when he insisted at length that the workers were being "belligerent" and that it could all be explained in terms of their being "arrogant adolescents". One wonders whether the statement in the Press Release that P.R.A.'s policy "gives first priority to the needs of the patient based upon integrity" can really be taken seriously.

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free agent and that the accommodation is fully up to Department of Education standards. This may be so but a path runs across the main playgrounds and the difficulty of using the small PE hall for large-scale ball-games has been verified by an ILEA PE inspector.

In the article we drew attention to the poor fencing-off of the autistic unit from the busy main road. Mr. Brennan admitted that the fencing was not absolutely safe, but that to make it so would mean caging the children in like animals.

#### DECLINE IN REFERRALS

We pointed to the decline in the number of referrals to E.S.N. schools and suggested that this was in part due to a shift in ILEA policy towards educating ESN children in ordinary schools. Mr. Brennan claimed that the decline was almost entirely the result of a fall in the school population, and emphatically denied any change of ILEA policy.

Nevertheless, Mr. Brennan himself contributed to the interim report on special education, presented in June 1974. This stated that "...We recognise the valuable work special schools do for most handicapped children, but we feel there has been too much concentration on them and insufficient on the need for special education in the ordinary schools." In the evidence that it submitted to the Warnock Committee the ILEA anticipated the anxiety and insecurity that this would cause in both special and ordinary schools. They made it clear that the provision of the special facilities in the ordinary schools was an essential pre-condition for the integration policy to be implemented.

We must now ensure that the ILEA stick by this pre-condition despite the swingeing cuts in the Education budget that have since occurred.



# THE END OF THE

Among the many industries that you and I pay for throughout the country, British Rail is probably the one that regularly frustrates its 60 million or so shareholders the most.

The situation, however, is to change in the coming years; gone are the days when BR even attempted to provide an adequate passenger transport service. The new aim of this great unwieldy bureaucratic sprawl is to make a profit, or at least reduce its losses in accordance with the Government cuts.

Spearheading this new-look British Rail image is the redevelopment of Liverpool Street station into a large new complex of office blocks only minutes away from the centre of the City.

#### OFFICES NEEDED?

Incidentally, they're thinking of improving the railway terminus as well, firstly by making it smaller (for more office space) and next by completely demolishing Broad Street station (that's for offices too); that means that they can knock down all that viaduct up to Dalston Junction (that's right, the one they've recently been doing extensive repairs to), and probably sell off the land or perhaps build more offices.

All this at a time when there is an enormous surplus of office space in London, and no prospect of it being occupied in the immediate future.

The planners claim that they need all the offices to help pay for the redevelopment and they need to reduce the size of the station to make room for the 1.2 million square feet of office space that will be built.

#### SIDE EFFECTS

Whilst the controversy centres on the Liverpool St station redevelopment, a few side-effects have to be considered. The loss of Broad St station will affect the North London Line (recently the subject of a local publicity campaign), thus threatening one of Hackney's two passenger railway lines.

British Rail would like to scrap the viaduct between Dalston Junction and Broad St, because it would bring trains into the new Liverpool St station at too high a level.

Instead they propose to route the North London Line past Dalston Junction along existing track towards Hackney Station. They would then build a viaduct across Graham Rd to link this line with the Hackney Downs to Liverpool St viaduct, thus routing the North London Line via Bethnal Green to Liverpool St, and doing away with Broad St altogether.

This plan brings with it two major problems: Firstly, a new station would have to be built at Dalston Junction, probably at Ridley Rd - estimated cost £4m.

Then, the viaduct over Graham Rd, simple though it might sound, involves taking a branch from the Dalston track from ground level below the Hackney Downs viaduct up to the level of that viaduct before it crosses Graham Rd - a rise of 20 feet over a horizontal distance of about 300 yards - an incline of the order of 1 in 30 on a very tight curve.

There also happen to be a couple of blocks of flats, including Boscobel House, that will be so close that at least one will probably require double-glazing to sound-proof it, whilst the steepness and tightness of the curve will ensure that trains will have to go through it very slowly. Estimated cost of the viaduct £2m.

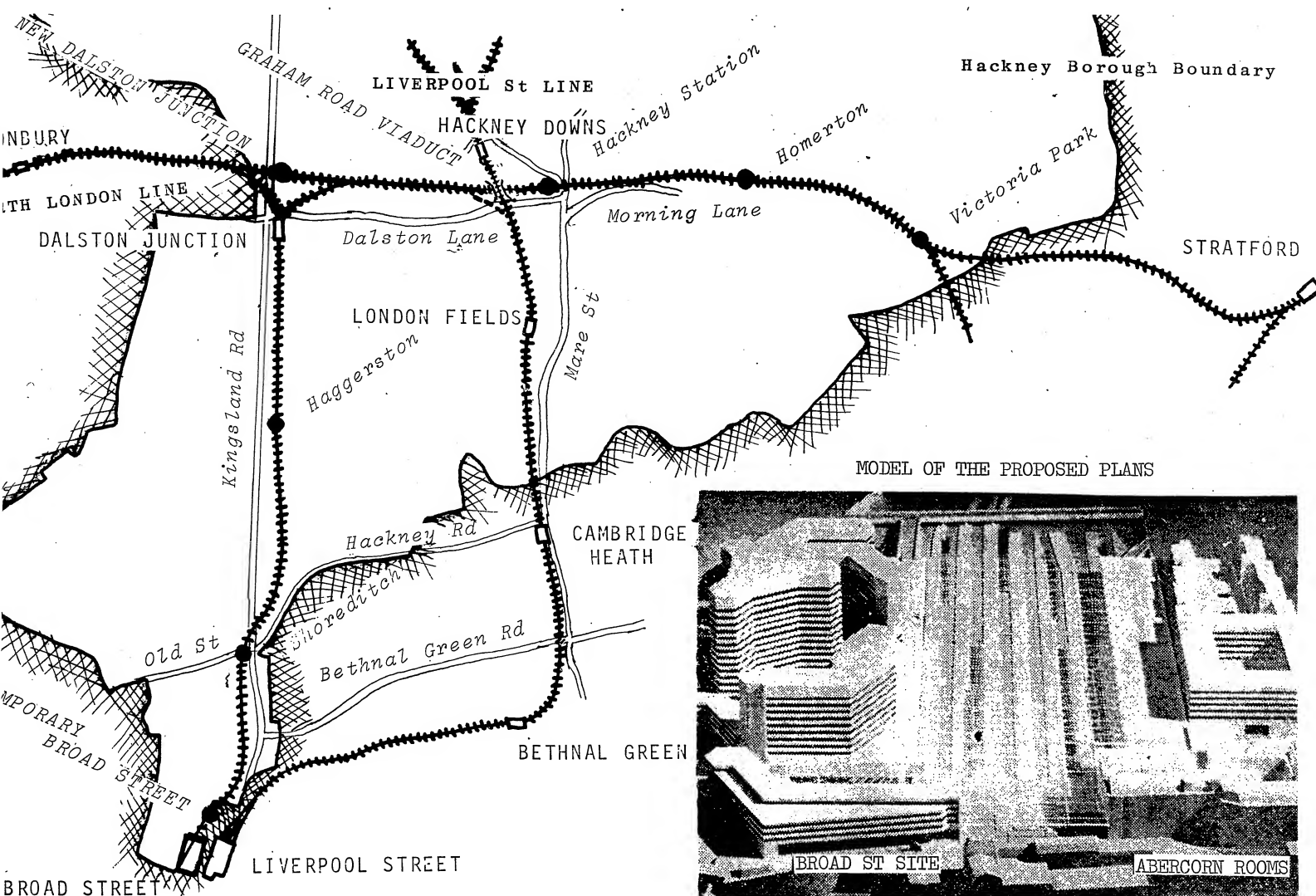
The final requirement of this plan is a temporary station at Sun St, a couple of hundred yards up the track from Broad St, to enable the North London Line to continue operation during the redevelopment period, which would last between 5 and 10 years. The estimated cost of this would be £200,000; bringing the total cost of the BR proposal to almost £2½m.

#### NO REAL IMPROVEMENT

The worst thing about spending so much money is that it will not improve the service - North London Line running-times would need to be altered to mesh with those of the Liverpool St line - meaning an inevitable reduction in frequency, whilst the only tangible benefit would be that people near London Fields, Cambridge Heath and Bethnal Green will have access to the North London Line.

An alternative plan, which would cost about the same to implement, but which would greatly improve the present service has been mooted by Jeff Roberts of the Hackney South and Shoreditch Liberals, based on proposals by the North London Line Committee and the Hackney Public Transport Action Group.

# E LINE FOR HACKNEY ?



This plan involves re-opening Haggerston and Shoreditch stations on the Dalston Junction - Broad St viaduct; Haggerston would need almost completely rebuilding, but Shoreditch is still virtually intact. Estimated cost £2m.

Stations along the line between Canonbury and Stratford, currently used for freight, would also be re-opened - these are Hackney, Homerton and Victoria Park stations. Estimated cost £2m. Finally, the track under Dalston Lane, linking Dalston Junction to Stratford, would be restored - estimated cost £100,000.

This scheme would provide many parts of Hackney with a railway station and links with Stratford, the City and the West End for the first time since the war. It omits the cost of high-level platforms at the redeveloped Liverpool St station, but then, they could leave Broad St as it is, and get the best of both worlds. The office-block plans would have to be scrapped, though!

One more point that needs to be considered with relation to the North

London Line is that the £150,000 GLC grant to keep the service at 20-minute intervals during peak hours expires at the end of September. If the service is allowed to become less frequent, then fewer people will use it, and it will become easier to justify closing the line down altogether.

The entire Liverpool St redevelopment will cost in the region of £120 millions at today's prices. Since the project will take at least 10 years to complete, the final cost does not bear thinking about.

## IS IT NECESSARY?

Finally, one has to ask, Is a redevelopment on so large a scale really necessary? As is typical with planners, their application is being made without any regard to the side-effects and necessary changes that will automatically have to be made outside the station boundaries.

"It's nothing to do with us as yet, and will have to be considered separately", is the answer from the Borough Planning offices.

And so it seems no-one knows what is to happen to the possibly-redundant viaduct up towards Dalston, nor about the new bridge over Graham Rd. These will be worked out later, once the Liverpool St application has been passed so that no alternatives can be produced. Even the future of the whole North London Line is now in the balance; the renegotiations for a further grant are going on at present.

THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC ENQUIRY ON NOVEMBER 16th. This will probably be your last chance to air your views on the whole issue.

Hackney Public Transport Action Group can be contacted c/o  
Roger Lansdown  
62, Glenarm Rd, E.5.

# WHO BENEFITS ?

The benefit system in Britain is based on the principle of placating, rather than helping, the disadvantaged of our society. Benefits are used merely as a political tool, they win elections, they keep discontent at a low level and the spectre of unemployment doesn't seem so bad to the worker with the prospect of redundancy. To all but the people who have to live off the benefits the rates seem reasonable. A lot of necessary, and cheap, schemes for reform of the benefit system are sacrificed to political expediency. The child benefit scheme, basically the removal of tax allowances for children and substituting greatly increased family allowance, would have cost **NOTHING** if a rate of £2.34 per child was paid. This would have redirected the cash to where it was most needed, and put it into the hands of those responsible for the children - their mothers. Unfortunately the (Male dominated) T.U.C. wanted to keep the tax allowances in their pockets, so the scheme has been effectively scrapped. Another cheap, and necessary, idea that is being ignored is 'pay slips' for claimants. Particularly with supplementary benefit, the assessment of entitlement to benefit is complicated and, generally, the claimant is unable to work out their correct rate of benefit. A system of pay slips would be simple for benefit staff to operate, the claimant would be able to see if they were getting their full entitlement, and, if they found a fault in their statement would be able to point out the incorrect parts. This idea has been thrown out as it would give claimants the idea that benefits are their right. Pay slips are necessary as, apparently unknown to the likes of Tory M.P. Ian Sproat, there is a higher proportion of claimants underpaid than overpaid.

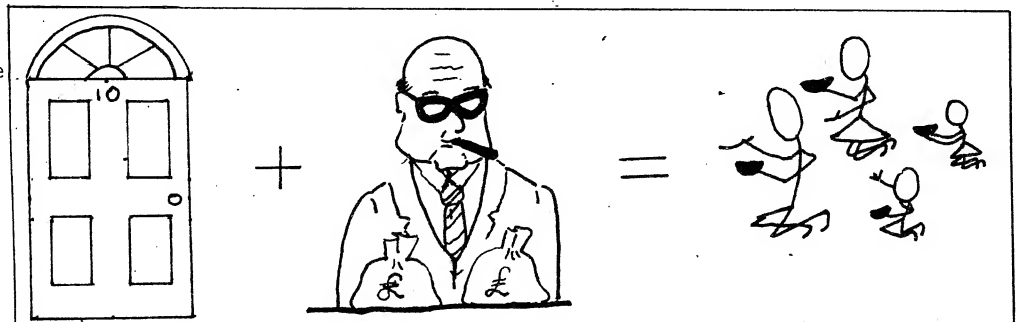
The overall effect of various governments refusing to reform the benefit system is that claimants are forced to beg for what should be theirs by right, and the divisive system of exceptional needs grants is kept instead of paying reasonable rates of benefit.

Other necessary changes to make the system fairer are; full, free,

legal representation at truly independent appeals tribunals, leaving it up to the department to prove lack of need. Public funding of Claimants Unions and the provision of a full time official at each union to provide continuity and giving them the ability to fight extended campaigns against particular faults in their areas; also complete sets of codes would be useful to the claimants.

There are now a vast number of benefits available to both the employed and the unemployed, it would be impossible to list them all but these are the main ones-

**RENT & RATE REBATES** - these are available to all but supplementary benefit claimants, the level of earnings at which a rebate is payable is quite high now, for example a couple without children paying £13.00 p.w. rent can earn £70.00 p.w. gross and still get a rebate.



**CHILD INTERIM BENEFIT** - £1.50 p.w. for the first child for one parent families.

**FAMILY INCOME SUPPLEMENT** - for all wage earners, it tops up the wages of low earners with children.

**SUPPLEMENTARY BENEFIT** - for anybody not in full time work, it brings income up to a subsistence level.

**UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFIT & SICKNESS BENEFIT** - always claim them as soon after finishing work as possible as claims cannot be back-dated.

**ATTENDANCE ALLOWANCE** - if a member of the family needs 'constant' care and attention day and/or night (this is the only source of income totally disregarded in the assessment of Supplementary Benefit).

These are only a few of the available benefits, if you are in financial difficulties go to your local Claimants Union, Citizens Advice Bureau, National Insurance Office, Supplementary Benefits Office or Social Services Office.

Your local Social Security offices:-

**STOKE NEWINGTON**  
52 Arcola St. E.8  
Tel: 254 1244

**HACKNEY**  
17 Sylvester Rd., E.8.  
Tel: 986 3200

**HOXTON (N.1 area only)**  
30 Drysdale St. N.1.  
Tel: 739 8400

**SHOREDITCH**  
3 Bonhill St. E.C.2  
Tel: 628 0961

**HACKNEY CLAIMANTS UNION**  
Centerprise,  
136 Kingsland High St., E.8.

Meetings Wednesday's 10-12 a.m.  
Remember - claim for any benefit that there is the slightest possibility of you being eligible for, the worst that can happen is having your claim turned down, the best could make a lot of difference to your life.

There are 1½ million people eligible for Supplementary Benefit who aren't claiming - are you one of them?

Most benefit rates go up on the 15th November. The supplementary Benefit single householder rate (short term) increases by £1.80 a week and the rate for a couple increases by £2.90.

If you do not receive an increase in that week contact your benefit office immediately.



## Letter

Dear Peoples Press,

I am writing on behalf of Hackney Trades Council in response to the excellent article "Highway Robbery on the Buses" in your July issue. The Trades Council is unfavourably mentioned several times. You ask why Hackney Trades Council didn't pass a resolution calling on the travelling public to withhold the increases and mention that the local F.T.A.T. branch urged us to do this in April. In fact the Trades Council did pass that resolution from F.T.A.T. with an important addendum calling for the introduction of a free public transport system. In my capacity as Press Officer I was instructed to write to the "Hackney Gazette" condemning the increases and calling for the implementation of a free public transport system. I did so but the letter was never published.

When the resolution was passed, Mike Knowles, the Trades Council's Secretary, contacted the affiliated branches in Hackney's bus garages and was informed that while opposing the fare increases, members of T.G.W.U. branches in Hackney did not wish to mount a campaign calling on passengers to offer the old fare. They felt that this would place transport workers in an impossible - and illegal - position. Hackney Trades Council accepted this decision, it would be unwarrantable interference for us to seek to change decisions taken by Trade Union branches or to force an unwelcome campaign on T.G.W.U. members or on any other trade unionists. I trust you will find space in your next issue to correct the false impression of the Trades Council given in the article.

Yours,

Isolda Cahill  
(Press Officer)

HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL

H.P.P. realises now that the Trades Council was willing to take a stand on the June bus fare increases. We can only deplore the fact that there was no support from local busmen for some direct action against fare increases. Walthamstow Bus Garage & Waltham Forest Trades Council together showed that an effective stand could have been taken. In addition the FARE FIGHT campaign, which is explained on the loose page insert in this paper, shows that passengers and workers fighting together can work to save public transport from L.T.'s suicidal policies.

## HCAR: New Plans

Since the march through Hoxton in June, the Hackney Committee Against Racism have been discussing activities for the coming months.

A lot has happened during the long hot summer. Many new campaigns have been sponsored on the race issue by various community and political groups on the race issue.

The H.C.A.R. has been canvassing local tenants groups for their active support for the anti-racist campaign on the housing estates. It has attempted to prepare local tenants and workers for any new upsurge of racialism which is likely to be provoked by continuing deterioration of health, transport and housing conditions.

An Autumn campaign will start in October to bring public attention to the activities of the National Front and their thugs in this Borough. In the short-term the main aim is to eradicate the small but outwardly active signs of the influence that racist groups have in parts of Hackney.

Everyone must have seen N.F. slogans daubed along Kingsland High Street, Mare St., Shacklewell Lane and elsewhere. The Committee intends to ask Hackney Council to organise the systematic removal of this graffiti by Council workers. Similarly, on the Estates either Council workers should clean up the walls or preferably provide the tenants associations with the wherewithal to do this themselves.

However a more important demand is that the Council extend the present ban on Fascist organisations using public property to pedal racialism to include market places and street areas.

Another branch of fascist activity has been the vandalising of the Gay centres in Shoreditch and Finsbury Park during the summer. We know this to have been the work of that other fascist group, the National Party.

Continuing attacks on black people in the street, in public transport and on the estates have been reported to the H.C.A.R. A few weeks ago the Gazette had a front page story on a Labour Party anti-fascist canvasser who was beaten up near Manor House.

This callous thuggery lies behind a thin veil of respectability which the Fascist Parties try to maintain. The H.C.A.R. urges all Socialists and democrats to be vigilant during the next few months.

Join us in the battle to destroy the Fascists veil of respectability and expose the hate and ignorance that lies beneath. and delegates from Trades Union Branches, Labour organisations and community groups in the Hackney area.

THE HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM welcomes new members

Contact H.C.A.R. Secretary  
(Tel: 986 0963 for affiliations and date of forthcoming meetings etc...)



# information

## GROUPS

### HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION

34 Dalston Lane, E.8.  
Advice service on Tuesdays and  
Thursdays from 10.30- 4.00pm.  
Tea Bar on Mon-Fri. 10.30-4.00pm.

### HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT

Upper Clapton Congregational  
Hall, E.5.  
Social and advice centre, aimed  
particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm.

### OFF CENTRE

25 Hackney Grove, E.8  
Advice for young people between  
13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until  
8.30pm on Tuesdays).  
Tel 985 8566

### FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE

Friendship House, 27 Hackney  
Grove, E.8  
Provides a 24 hour telephone  
service with people always  
willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973  
986 9146 (office hours)

### SOUTH STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

54 Harcombe Road, N.16  
Contact them if you are concerned  
about poor transport, badly  
planned redevelopment, empty  
houses and nowhere for kids to play.

### EAST STOKE NEWINGTON COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

c/o Barbara Harris, 124a Stoke  
Newington High Street, N.16.

### HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE

Contact E. Ross 986 5767.

### MENTAL PATIENTS UNION

Meet at 177 Glenarm Road, E5.

### HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION

Information from 22 Stoke  
Newington Common, N16.

### HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS

Hackney South and Central YS.  
Meet every Wednesday at 8 pm  
at 34 Dalston Lane, E8.

Hackney North YS  
Meet every other Monday at  
8pm at 5 Stamford Hill, N.16.  
Contact Mark Douglas, 103  
Osbaldstone Road, N.16  
All welcome.

### HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM

Meets on the first Wednesday  
of each month at the Hackney  
Community Relations Council,  
Mare St., E8.

### HACKNEY GINGERBREAD

Group for one parent families.  
Meets every other Monday at 34  
Dalston Lane, E.8, at 7.30pm.  
Further information from Brenda  
Royal, 986 9776.

### TASK FORCE

34 Dalston Lane, E.8  
Free advice for pensioners in  
Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in  
N.16 and N.4 only. Pensioners'  
activities and neighbourhood  
care in N.5.  
Tel 254 1620

### HACKNEY INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

Meet regularly in Centerprise.  
Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

### ANARCHIST WORKERS ASSOCIATION

c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E.8  
Contact Dave Coull 226 0817 for  
details. Open discussion meetings  
every third Tuesday evening.  
Newspaper 'Anarchist Worker'  
on sale in Centerprise.

## CENTERPRISE CO-OPERATIVE MEETING

On the 13th of September, Centre-  
prise, the bookshop, coffee bar and  
community centre, held a co-opera-  
tive meeting. The monthly meetings  
are open to all residents and  
workers in Hackney, as well as the  
various local groups which use the  
centre's facilities.

The September meeting was opened  
by the various staff members re-  
porting on their work and future  
plans, following which members rep-  
resenting the various user-groups  
asked questions and gave their  
opinions about the project.

Centerprise is an important  
facility in Hackney, it provides not  
only a cheap friendly coffee-bar  
and non-profit-oriented bookshop,  
but also acts as a focus for a wide  
range of community groups and pro-  
jects; from the under-fives group  
to the full-time-staffed Publishing  
Project.

As Centerprise is mainly funded  
by Hackney Council and the ILEA  
and was set up to serve the people  
of the area, the workers there feel  
it is particularly important that  
their contact with users is two-  
way. The next co-operative meeting  
will be on Monday, 11th October, at  
7.30pm, at Centerprise - 136/138,  
Kingsland High St. E.8.; and all  
interested are urged to come and  
give their opinions, and help, or  
just to find out more. HPP also  
hopes to report on Centerprise  
regularly in the future.

## WOMEN



### HACKNEY WOMEN'S AID

Details from 254 7504

### HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB-COMMITTEE

Meets second Tuesday of every  
month at Centerprise. All  
welcome.

### HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN

Fortnightly meetings at 42  
Kynaston Road, N16. Tel  
249 1652.

## THEATRE

### STOKE NEWINGTON TOWN HALL

Friday 1 October 7.30pm.  
7:84 Theatre Company in their  
new show "Our Land, Our Lives"  
by Steve Gooch.  
Tickets £1 and 50p.  
7:84 aim to provide good socialist  
theatre and an enjoyable evening  
out. "7% of the country own  
84% of the wealth."

## CHILDREN

HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION

Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High St., E.8  
Tel 254 9145.

HACKNEY UNDER FIVES COMMITTEE

136 Kingsland High St., E8  
Tel 254 9145.

Information and support for nurseries and playgroups and for parents with children below school age. Contact: Madge Harte or Gillian Wilding.

## ADVICE

CENTERPRISE ADVICE CENTRE

Advice on housing problems, legal problems, welfare and social security. Thursdays 6.30-7.30 pm at Centerprise.

HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY  
ADVICE CENTRE

5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Gives advice on tenants' problems especially harassment and repairs. Fridays 7-8 pm.

HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU AND  
LAW CENTRE

236-8 Mare St., E8. Tel 986 8446. Open Monday to Friday 10 am-5 pm (7.30 pm Thursdays). Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment.

STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP

Free expert advice on legal, financial, family/welfare and other matters. Information and help on housing, social security and personal problems. Mondays and Wednesdays 7-8.30pm in Church Hall, 102 Manor Road, N.16. By Manor Road/Lordship Road traffic lights - 106 bus.

## THE WORKSHOP

81 Lenthall Road, E8.  
Tel 254 9632, before 6 pm on Tuesdays to Fridays only.

Learn to print poster, T-shirts etc at non-commercial rates. Cost of materials only. Open Tuesdays to Sundays, 1 pm to 8 pm.

## HEALTH

CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY  
HEALTH COUNCIL.

Takes up criticism of local health services. Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E.2 739 6308. Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm.

## information

## FOOD

DOWN TO EARTH

Durham Row, Stepney Green, E1.  
Tel 790 3512.

Wholefood shop selling grains, flour, beans, honey, herbs, etc.  
Open Mon-Sat 9 am to 6 pm.

## CENTERPRISE

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8  
254 9632

Bookshop and office hours:

Monday 1pm to 6.30pm

Tuesday to Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Coffeebar and meeting rooms hours:  
Monday 1pm to 6.30pm

Tuesday to Friday 10am to 10pm

Saturday 10am to 6.30pm

Facilities

Coffeebar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters and duplicator for people to use free: ask in General Office.

Advice Centre

Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays, 6.30 to 7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or phone 254 9634.

Reading Centre

For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or phone 254 9635.

Publishing Project

Publishing books by people who live in Hackney. Contact Ken Worpole or phone 254 9634.

Youth project

Table tennis, music, writing, discussion groups, etc. Tuesday to Friday afternoons, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. Contact Oliver Flavin.

HACKNEY  
PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative paper produced by a group of people living in the borough, for the people of Hackney.

We do not publish for profit, but because we hope you will find it interesting and useful. The paper is not aligned to or funded by any political party.

We still need YOUR help, YOUR interest and YOUR enthusiasm to make this truly YOUR paper. If you would like to help us in any way -- and we need help to do everything: write articles, type them out, do the design and layout, take photographs, distribute and sell the finished copies -- then come to our next meeting

CENTERPRISE  
Thursday 14 October  
7.30p.m.

or leave us a note in Centerprise, or ring 249 0311, for further details.

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is sold in the following bookshops and newsagents around Hackney.

CENTERPRISE Bookshop

136 Kingsland High Street, E.8  
GRIFFITHS, 7 Albion Parade, Albion Road, N.16

SOCRATOUS, 67 Nevill Road, N.16

230 Graham Road, E.8

CDS, 54 Evering Road, N.16

246 Morning Lane, E.9

YOUNGERS, 15 Dalston Lane, E.8

ROUNABOUT, Mare Street, E.8

SUPPLIES SUPPLIES, Dalston Lane, E.8

If your local newsagent would like to sell HPP, then please contact us (Trade discount is available.)

HPP is also sold through community groups in the borough and on various housing estates. If your group would like to some copies, or if you want to sell some copies on your estate (or block or street) then don't hesitate to contact us ...

All we ask is a few minutes of your time!

Published by HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8

Printed by Chris Board, London 359 4794

## subscribe

to Hackney People's Press and make sure of your copies regularly. Only £1.25 for ten issues. Please make cheque out to Hackney People's Press and send it to Hackney People's Press, c/o Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, London E.8.

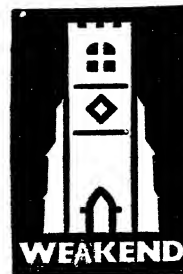
NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

# Agony Gazette

FOUND in 1976

AND NORTH LONDON SENSATIONALIST



**"SAW RED SO I FRIED HER ALIVE"**

## LOCAL MAN EATS WIFE

ACCUSED OF VICIOUSLY murdering and consuming his wife, Joe Gribbins, a fried seafood and potato vendor, of Rotgut Road, Hackney, pleaded provocation. "She's been trying to undermine my self-respect for months" he said.

Mr. Gribbins claimed that his wife had deliberately put too much salt and vinegar on his haddock and chip supper on the night of the incident. "I just blew-up" he said "I saw red and grabbed her without thinking, battered her and threw her in the chip fat. Then I fried her alive and ate her. Good bit of meat on her too. You see I can't stand to see good food ruined like that, I just got angry, anyone would do the same prices as they are." Neighbours said it was a shame,

"Joe was a good man and the best chip fryer in Hackney. Couldn't stand good food spoilt like that" said Mrs. Smith, next door neighbour and petty smuggler, "You can't blame him, an artist like that reviled!"

Mr. Gribbins asked for two previous offences involving fried cats to be taken into account. The charge of murder was dropped but he was fined £25.00 under the Public Health Act.

## Fish Outrage In Shoreditch

Mr. Arthur Grimsby (24) an unemployed ferret strangler of Dalston was today convicted of possessing a kipper as an offensive weapon. The offence took place during a National Front rally in Shoreditch. In the words of P. C. Trotter, the arresting officer, "Mr. D. Night was peacefully putting forward his views that niggers, sorry, coloured people, should be shot when he accidentally dropped his axe on Grimsby's head. Grimsby then, totally unprovoked and with intent to cause grievous bodily harm dropped his kipper on Mr. Night's foot".

The defendants assertion that he was merely taking the kipper home for his tea, was described by Justice Goebbels as "The most disgusting attempt at perverting justice that I have ever heard".

Mr. Grimsby was sentenced to be detained at Her Majesty's pleasure in Broadmoor and was ordered to pay Mr. Night £20,000 compensation.

## MODERN PEOPLES PRESS



HACKNEY'S QUALITY newspaper, the People's Press, has recently moved into the 21st Century with the acquisition of bang-up-to-the-minute printing technology. The new system, designed to cut the time taken to get the proofs to press is known technically as a "bicycle".

A spokesperson for the paper said that they had experienced a few teething troubles at first, but things were now "firing on both pedals". Despite the unfortunate arrest of one of their number following an accident involving a bicycle bell, a policeman and a life-size inflatable model of Margaret Thatcher; the collective are confident of producing their next issue on schedule.

For the present, the paper plans to use its vast resources to bring the people of Hackney its time-honoured mixture of news, views and comic extravaganzas so painfully absent from the other local newspaper.



FIGHT THE INCREASED FARES!

# Open a Credit Account with London Transport

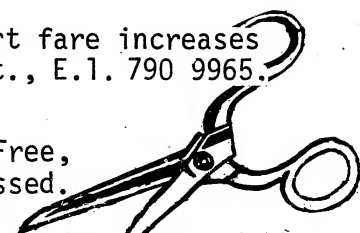
Thousands of people all over London are fighting the latest increase in Tube fares (a total rise now of 116% in eighteen months) by using Deferred Payment Slips, like those printed below. It is a PERFECTLY LEGAL way of forcing London Transport to take notice that passengers and workers alike will not stand any more increases.

The scheme works like this: you buy a ticket for less than the "official" fare -- whatever you think is reasonable. Then you present it at the other end, together with the slip, with all the details filled in correctly. You may need to produce identification to show you are who you say you are. Then it's up to LT to chase you for the extra money, which may take them months. It is illegal to get on a train without any ticket so get at least a 10p one. See the FARE FIGHT leaflet "Dragging It Out" for full details, available from the address below, free with books of 25 slips (price 2p per book, plus postage.)

Published by FARE FIGHT -- organising resistance to London Transport fare increases and the public spending cuts which cause them. Flat 3, 76 Sidney St., E.1. 790 9965.

FARE FIGHT is YOUR direct action group fighting for YOUR rights.

Come to the regular meetings held every Thursday at 8pm in Rising Free, 138 Drummond Street, NW1, where future policy and action are discussed.



<p><u>TO LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE</u>      Date _____</p> <p>I have today travelled from _____ to _____</p> <p>and tendered a ticket for ____p/      Should you wish</p> <p>to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is:</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____</p> <p>Signed: _____</p>	<p><u>TO LONDON TRANSPORT EXECUTIVE</u>      Date _____</p> <p>I have today travelled from _____ to _____</p> <p>and tendered a ticket for ____p/      Should you wish</p> <p>to recover the outstanding sum, my name and address is:</p> <p>Name _____ Address _____</p> <p>Signed: _____</p>
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